GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1070
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
FOOD PARKS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the objects of Mega Food Parks Scheme and the number of food parks that have been approved so far and the number of them are operational;

(b) the criteria for selecting places for establishment of food parks together with the details of the places selected so far for establishment of food parks;

(c) the estimated number of farmers will be benefited from this scheme;and

(d) the major reasons for poor functioning of food parks and action taken to make the scheme successful?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (I/C) (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) & (b): The scheme of Mega Food Parks (MFPs) has been envisaged as the 11th Five Year Plan Scheme for creation of infrastructure for food processing in a comprehensive farm-to-plate supply chain system. These parks would provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for food processing in the country on a pre-identified cluster basis.This is aimed at reducing wastages and ensuring value addition,especially in perishables like fruits and vegetables etc. Some of the major objectives of the scheme are the following:

i) Establish a sustainable raw material supply chain for each cluster,

(ii) Facilitate induction of latest technology,

(iii) Address issues of small farm size and small and medium nature of processing industries through a cluster approach with stakeholders managing the supply chain,

(iv) Provide an institutional mechanism for producers, processors,retailers to work together to build the supply chain.

Under the earlier Food Park Scheme of this Ministry 56 Food Parks were approved, out of which 35 are operational. The criteria for sanctioning of Food Parks were:
(i) Minimum area required for setting up of food park should be 30 acre but the same is relaxable in the case of difficult areas subject to overall viability of the project,
(ii) Minimum 20 units should come up in the food park but the same is also relaxable in the case of difficult areas subject to overall viability of the project,
(iii) Around the food park, there must be strong agricultural raw material base. The details of approved Food Parks indicating its locations etc. are given in Annexure.

(c): Each Mega Food Park is expected to provide benefit flowing to about 25-30 thousand farmers over and above around six thousand directly associated farmers.

(d): Most of the Food Parks under the earlier scheme,were promoted by State Government Agencies and those were conceptualized in the traditional industrial estate mode with no forward and backward linkages. The major reasons as identified by evaluation studies, for the inadequate functioning of parks are:
(i) poor site selection
(ii) delay in providing basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, road, etc.
(iii) absence of strong backward-forward linkages and
(iv) poor management / implementation capabilities. All of these factors have been suitably addressed and restructured in the new scheme of Mega Food Park.